

SN. 10/644,596

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IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. *(Currently Amended)* A sheet processing apparatus comprising:
 - a stapling device that staples a sheet bundle comprising a plurality of sheets;
 - a discharge device that discharges the sheet bundle;
 - a driving device that drives said discharge device; and
 - a controller that controls said driving device; andwherein said controller controls a discharge speed of the sheet bundle in different ways between a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle at one point thereof and a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle at two points thereof.
2. *(Original)* A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
 - the sheet bundle stapled at one point thereof is a sheet bundle stapled at one of corners thereof by said stapling device; and
 - the sheet bundle stapled at two points thereof is a sheet bundle stapled by said stapling device at symmetrical points thereof with respect to a middle part thereof in a direction of sheet width perpendicular to a sheet bundle conveying direction.
3. *(Currently Amended)* A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
 - said controller is operable when the sheet bundle stapled at one point thereof is to be discharged, for causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle ~~while controlling a speed of the sheet bundle to be maintained~~ at a first predetermined speed; and
 - said controller is operable when discharging the sheet bundle stapled at two points thereof, for continuously applying a predetermined voltage to said driving device to cause said discharge device to convey the sheet bundle until after the sheet bundle has been conveyed by a predetermined distance, and is operable after the sheet bundle has been conveyed by the predetermined distance, for causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle ~~while controlling the speed of the sheet bundle to be maintained~~ at the first predetermined speed.

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4. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus ~~according to claim 1, wherein~~comprising:

a stapling device that staples a sheet bundle comprising a plurality of sheets;

a discharge device that discharges the sheet bundle;

a driving device that drives said discharge device; and

a controller that controls said driving device.

wherein said controller controls discharge of the sheet bundle in different ways between a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle at one point thereof and a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle at two points thereof.

wherein said controller is operable when the sheet bundle stapled at one point thereof is to be discharged, for causing said discharge device to accelerate the sheet bundle at a first predetermined acceleration and then causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle ~~while controlling a speed of the sheet bundle to be maintained at the~~ first predetermined speed[;], and

wherein said controller is operable when the sheet bundle stapled at two points thereof is to be discharged, for causing said discharge device to accelerate the sheet bundle at a second predetermined acceleration greater than the first predetermined acceleration, and then causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle ~~while controlling the speed of the sheet bundle to be maintained at the first predetermined speed.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus ~~according to claim 1, comprising:~~

a stapling device that staples a sheet bundle comprising a plurality of sheets;

a discharge device that discharges the sheet bundle;

a driving device that drives said discharge device; and

a controller that controls said driving device.

wherein said controller controls discharge of the sheet bundle in different ways between a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle at one point thereof and a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle at two points thereof.

wherein the controller is operable when the sheet bundle stapled at one point thereof is to be discharged, for causing the discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle while

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~~controlling the speed of the sheet bundle to be maintained at a first predetermined speed, and~~
wherein the controller is operable when the sheet bundle stapled at two points thereof is to be discharged, for causing the discharge device to convey the sheet bundle ~~while controlling the speed of the sheet bundle to be maintained at a second predetermined speed higher than the first predetermined speed until after the sheet bundle has been conveyed by a predetermined distance, and is operable after the sheet bundle has been conveyed by the predetermined distance, for causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle while controlling the speed of the sheet bundle to be maintained at the first predetermined speed.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus comprising:

a stapling device that staples a sheet bundle comprising a plurality of sheets;

a discharge device that discharges the sheet bundle;

a driving device that drives said discharge device; and

a controller that controls said driving device; and

wherein said controller controls a discharge speed of the sheet bundle in different ways between a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle and a case where said stapling device does not staple the sheet bundle.

7. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein:

said controller is operable when a stapled sheet bundle is to be discharged, for causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle ~~while controlling the speed of the sheet bundle to be maintained at a first predetermined speed; and~~

said controller is operable when an unstapled sheet bundle is to be discharged, for continuously applying a predetermined voltage to said driving device to cause said discharge device to convey the sheet bundle until after the sheet bundle has been conveyed by a predetermined distance, and is operable after the sheet bundle has been conveyed by the predetermined distance, for causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle ~~while controlling the speed of the sheet bundle to be maintained at the first predetermined speed.~~

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8. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus ~~according to claim 6, wherein comprising:~~

a stapling device that staples a sheet bundle comprising a plurality of sheets;

a discharge device that discharges the sheet bundle;

a driving device that drives said discharge device; and

a controller that controls said driving device.

wherein said controller controls discharge of the sheet bundle in different ways between a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle and a case where said stapling device does not staple the sheet bundle.

wherein said controller is operable when ~~the~~ a stapled sheet bundle is to be discharged, for causing said discharge device to accelerate the sheet bundle at a first predetermined acceleration and then causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle ~~while controlling the speed of the sheet bundle to be maintained~~ at a first predetermined speed; and

wherein said controller is operable when an unstapled sheet bundle is to be discharged, for causing said discharge device to accelerate the sheet bundle at a second predetermined acceleration greater than the first predetermined acceleration, and then causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle ~~while controlling the speed of the sheet bundle to be maintained~~ at the first predetermined speed.

9. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus ~~according to claim 6, wherein comprising:~~

a stapling device that staples a sheet bundle comprising a plurality of sheets;

a discharge device that discharges the sheet bundle;

a driving device that drives said discharge device; and

a controller that controls said driving device.

wherein said controller controls discharge of the sheet bundle in different ways between a case where said stapling device staples the sheet bundle and a case where said stapling device does not staple the sheet bundle.

wherein said controller is operable when a stapled sheet bundle is to be discharged, for causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle ~~while controlling the speed of the sheet bundle to be maintained~~ at a first predetermined speed; and

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wherein said controller is operable when an unstapled sheet bundle is to be discharged, for causing said discharge device to convey the sheet bundle ~~while controlling the speed of the sheet bundle to be maintained~~ at a second predetermined speed higher than the first predetermined speed until after the sheet bundle has been conveyed by a predetermined distance, and is operable after the sheet bundle has been conveyed by the predetermined distance, for causing said discharge device to discharge the sheet bundle ~~while controlling the speed of the sheet bundle to be maintained~~ at the first predetermined speed.